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The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

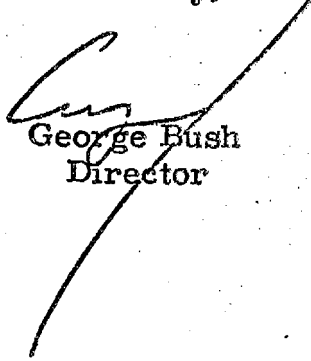
Dear Pete:

Last week you told me that some Department of Agriculture officials have complained about the lack of support and cooperation from the CIA. I have had a chance since then to be briefed on the CIA/USDA relation and, frankly, am surprised that such complaints should have been made.

I find that there are frequent daily contacts between CIA and USDA officials and that we provide them our intelligence on a regular basis under arrangements that have the personal approval of Earl Butz.

For your information, I am enclosing a statement outlining the various ways in which we support USDA in areas of mutual concern.

Sincerely,


George Bush
Director

Enclosure

Distribution:

DCI
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Pete -
I'll let you know if I
can give you
more on this
CB



Specific Areas of CIA Support to USDA

USSR

Each year, we transmit to USDA on a regular basis our assessments on Soviet crop conditions and the USSR's need for grain and other farm commodity imports. These assessments are included in comprehensive reports, numerous shorter articles in various current intelligence publications, as well as oral briefings and telephone calls. The frequency of these reports depends on the stage in the crop cycle and the state of negotiations for Soviet purchases of foreign commodities. Moreover, key USDA officials (as well as other government officials) are kept instantly informed by telephone of evidence of Soviet initiatives in the various farm commodity markets. At the working level, USDA technicians responsible for Soviet grain estimates have full access (and clearances) to all of CIA's information impinging on the estimate.

PRC

Copies of OER reports on PRC crop and trade prospects are routinely circulated to several levels of officials at USDA. In addition, there are regular oral briefings at the assistant secretary level and frequent liaison with commodity and country desks.

Free World

OER is in frequent contact with USDA officials at all levels regarding agriculture in Free World countries, world commodity markets, and developments in international organizations. The contacts are initiated by both USDA and CIA and exchange of information and ideas flow both ways.

OER country and commodity analysts discuss current developments and long-term trends regarding agriculture in the country or commodity for which they are responsible. Advance copies and drafts of OER research and special reports on agricultural subjects are frequently sent to USDA for their information and comments.

General

In addition to the types of contacts described above, a regular CIA/USDA exchange of information on all areas of the world occurs at the weekly meetings of Deputies Group on Food of the Economic Policy Board. On subjects related to agriculture, such as fertilizer and transportation, USDA has had the benefit of CIA analysis via special briefings and reports.